

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 IGA-01 SY-05 OPR-02

A-01 OC-05 CCO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 CU-02 FBO-02 PER-01

SCCT-01 CPR-01 /082 W

----- 065319

O 051330Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9703

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL MADRAS NIACT IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 NEW DELHI 8953

CONSULATES ALSO PASS BPAO'S

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, IN

SUBJ: POTENTIAL THREAT TO OPERATION OF USIS NEW DELHI LIBRARY

SUMMARY: POLICE, POSSIBLY BASED ON KNOWLEDGE OF UPCOMING DEMONSTRATION, ASKED USIS DELHI LIBRARY TO REMOVE "PREJUDICIAL MATERIAL" FROM SHELVES. ARE TOLD PREMISES PART OF US DIPLOMATIC ESTABLISHMENT, AND THAT SUCH REQUEST SHOULD PROPERLY COME ONLY VIA DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. POLICE SAY SUCH MATERIAL COULD CAUSE PUBLIC REACTION, UNPLEASANTNESS AND BARRING OF PUBLIC FROM LIBRARY. VISIT IS FOLLOWED BY YOUTH CONGRESS SECRETARY WHO LEAVES WITH WOULD BE-DEMONSTRATORS WHEN HE LEARNS BANNED COPY OF TIME NOT IN LIBRARY. SINCE POUCHES COPIES AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS WILL SOON ARRIVE FOR LIBRARY USE, PROBLEM LIKELY TO GROW. MEA AMERICAS' DESK OFFICER WAS UNAWARE OF POLICE VISIT, ASKED FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DETAILS OF AVAILABILITY OF US PRESS AND NEWS MAGAZINES AT USIS

LIBRARY, AND SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT WITH HIS SUPERIORS.  
END SUMMARY.

1. AT ABOUT 12 NOON TODAY, NEW DELHI POLICE SUPERINTENDENT K.D. NAYAR AND DELHI POLICE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER R.D. SAXENA CALLED ON USIS DELHI CHIEF LIBRARIAN JOGINDER SINGH. THEY SAID THEY HAD HEARD OF AN INTENDED DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE LIBRARY AND HAD COME TO SEE WHETHER THE LIBRARY WAS DISPLAYING "PREJUDICIAL MATERIAL " AND TO MAKE AN INFORMAL REQUEST IN THE INTEREST OF GOOD RELATIONS AND MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER, THAT WE WITHDRAW SUCH MATERIAL. THE PAO WAS CALLED IMMEDIATELY AND THE POLICE OFFICIALS WERE REQUESTED TO WAIT FOR HIS ARRIVAL. MEANWHILE SAXENA ASKED PERMISSION TO TELEPHONE DEPUTY CHIEF OF PROTOCOL AND WAS TOLD BY HIM THAT USIS LIBRARY HAD DIPLOMATIC STATUS.

2. ON HIS ARRIVAL THE PAO ALSO TOLD THE OFFICIALS THAT THE AMERICAN LIBRARY WAS PART OF THE DIPLOMATIC ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN NEW DELHI. SINCE THEY HAD ALREADY LOOKED AROUND THE LIBRARY, WHICH THE PAO SAID THEY WERE MOST WELCOMED TO DO AT ANYTIME AS VISITORS (THE LIBRARY IS OPEN ON SUNDAY), THE PAO ASKED WHETHER THEY HAD FOUND ANY MATERIAL WHICH THEY CONSIDERED PREJUDICIAL. IN RESPONSE THEY MENTIONED THE NEWSWEEK JUNE 30 ISSUE AND JUNE 27 AND 30 ISSUES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE. IT WAS EXPLAINED TO THE OFFICIALS THAT THESE PUBLICATIONS WERE SUPPLIED TO THE LIBRARY BY AN INDIAN NEWS DEALER IN NEW DELHI AND THAT WE UNDERSTOOD FROM HIM THAT THE INDIAN AUTHORITIES WERE NOT ALLOWING CURRENT COPIES OF TIME, NEWSWEEK AND THE HERALD TRIBUNE TO BE DISTRIBUTED; THAT THESE ISSUES CAME TO US OBVIOUSLY BEFORE THE GOI HAD SHUT OFF THE SUPPLY. (NOTE: USIS WILL EVENTUALLY RECEIVE POUCHES COPIES OF THE AMERICAN EDITIONS OF TIME AND NEWSWEEK. THESE ARE NOT DISPLAYED BUT ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST AT THE REFERENCE DESK.)

3. NAYAR SAID HE WAS INFORMALLY REQUESTING THAT WE REMOVE THE THREE ITEMS WHICH HE HAD MENTIONED AND ANY OTHERS LIKE THEM FROM OUR SHELVES BECAUSE THEIR PRESENCE THERE MIGHT "CAUSE SOME KINDS OF FEELING IN THE PUBLIC AND CREATE UNPLEASANTNESS." THE PAO RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT ANY SUCH REQUEST WOULD HAVE TO COME TO THE EMBASSY VIA NORMAL DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, NOT VIA THE POLICE CHANNEL. NAYAR SEEMED RATHER UNSURE OF HIMSELF AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MERELY REPEATED "SO YOU WANT TO TAKE IT UP THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS." "UNTIL I AM TOLD BY MY AMBASSADOR TO DO OTHERWISE," SAID THE PAO, "WE INTEND TO RUN THIS LIBRARY THE WAY WE ALWAYS HAVE, WITH ALL OF THE USUAL AMERICAN BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE TO OUR READERS." NAYAR THEN SAID THAT UNDER SOME CIRCUMSTANCES "WE MIGHT HAVE TO STOP PEOPLE FROM COMING INTO THE LIBRARY." THE POLICE OFFICIALS WERE NOT UNFRIENDLY AND EVEN A NOTE OF CORDIALITY WAS STRUCK AS THE PAO ESCORTED

THEM TO THEIR AUTOMOBILE.

4. HOWEVER, THE OFFICIALS DID NOT LEAVE AS IT TURNED OUT BECAUSE, ACCORDING TO USIS EMPLOYEES, NAYAR SPOTTED HARCHARAN SINGH JOSH, SECRETARY OF THE ALL INDIA YOUTH CONGRESS (THE YOUTH ARM OF THE CONGRESS PARTY) ACCOMPANIED BY ABOUT A DOZEN OF HIS COHORTS AS THEY DROVE UP TO THE LIBRARY IN A PRIVATE BUS. THERE WAS A BRIEF CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE POLICE OFFICIALS AND JOSH. WHEREUPON JOSH ENTERED THE BUILDING AND ASKED TO SEE THE USIS DIRECTOR. HE WAS TAKEN TO THE PAO TO WHOM JOSH SAID THAT HE AND HIS PEOPLE HAD HEARD THAT "THE RECENT ISSUE OF TIME MAGAZINE WAS ON DISPLAY IN THE LIBRARY AND THAT THIS ISSUE HAD BEEN BANNED BY THE GOI." THE PAO SAID THAT, AS HE UNDERSTOOD IT, THE CURRENT ISSUE HAD NOT ARRIVED AND WAS NOT ON THE SHELVES SINCE THE GOI WAS NOT PERMITTING THE WHOLESALE TO DISTRIBUTE IT. JOSH, WHO HAD BEEN BELLIGERENT, SAID THAT HE AND HIS GROUP HAD WANTED TO DEMONSTRATE AGAINST THE LIBRARY BECAUSE OF TIME MAGAZINE, BUT WAS GLAD HE HAD URGED HIS FOLLOWERS NOT TO DO SO UNTIL HE COULD ASCERTAIN THE FACTS, AND LEFT.

5. LATER IN THE AFTERNOON, A SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE CALLED ON USIS CHIEF LIBRARIAN TO CONFIDE THAT POLICE HAD KNOWN STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS WERE COMING. IF IT HAD BEEN ANY OTHER GROUP BUT CONGRESS PARTY HE SAID THEY WOULD HAVE TAKEN THEM AWAY.

6. ATTN CONSULATES: NEEDLESS TO SAY, PLEASE REPORT ANY DIFFICULTIES WITH USIS LIBRARY OPERATIONS IMMEDIATELY. AS ALREADY REQUESTED IN USIS INSTRUCTION LAST WEEK.

7. COMMENT: IT IS USUAL FOR THE DELHI POLICE TO FOREWARN THE EMBASSY AND USIS OF ANY PLANNED DEMONSTRATION. THE POLICE SUPERINTENDENT'S VISIT TODAY COULD BE SEEN PURELY IN THAT LIGHT.  
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BUT THOUGH HIS STATEMENTS WERE PUT SOMEWHAT UNSURELY, NAYAR'S REMARKS ABOUT POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF "PREJUDICIAL MATERIAL" GO BEYOND USUAL POLICE BUSINESS. THE POLICE VISIT APPEARS TO INDICATE THAT THE INDIAN AUTHORITIES MAY BE EXTENDING CENSORSHIP CONTROL TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES OR PERHAPS LIBRARIES, NEWSTANDS AND BOOK STORES IN GENERAL. FINALLY THERE IS THE THREAT OF PROHIBITING VISITORS FROM ENTERING THE USIS LIBRARY SHOULD UNDESIRE MATERIAL NOT BE REMOVED FROM ITS SHELVES. THE FACT THAT WE ALSO CARRY IN THE LIBRARY POUCHED COPIES OF THE NEW YORK TIMES AND WASHINGTON POST, DAILY AND SUNDAY EDITIONS, AND THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR WILL ADD TO THE PROBLEM.

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CONSULATES ALSO PASS BPAO'S

SOME USIS LIBRARIES ALSO CARRY THE LOS ANGELES TIMES.

IN ADDITION THE LIBRARIES RECEIVE AMERICAN PERIODICALS BY POUCH, SOME OF WHICH, SUCH AS NEW REPUBLIC, U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORTS, ETC., WILL ALSO BE CARRYING "PREJUDICIAL MATERIALS." END COMMENT.

8. ADCM REVIEWED THE POLICE AND CONGRESS YOUTH LEAGUE VISITS TO USIS WITH MEA JOINT SECRETARY TEJA THIS AFTERNOON. TEJA SAID HE WAS TOTALLY UNAWARE OF THE VISITS AND ASKED FOR FUTHER INFO ON USIS LIBRARY EXHIBITING OF NEWSPAPERS AND NEWSMAGAZINES WHICH ADCM PROVIDED ALONG LINES OF PARA 2 ABOVE (INCLUDING NOTE) AND FACT THAT NYTIMES AND OTHER PAPERS RECEIVED BY POUCH WERE IN LIBRARY. ADCM EMPHASIZED THAT ISSUE WAS ONE WHICH EMBASSY STRONGLY HOPED WOULD NOT PER PURSUED FURTHER BY GOI SINCE EMBASSY FELT VER STRONGLY ABOUT RIGHT TO EXHIBIT MAJOR NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES PUBLISHED IN US (UBT NOT NECESSARILY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THOSE WHICH OTHERWISE WERE PROCURED LOCALLY IN NEW DELHI) IN USIS LIBRARY. TEJA SAID ONLY THAT WHILE GOI DID NOT WISH TO INFRINGE UPON LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, ACCESS BY INDIAN CITIZENS TO PUBLICATIONS NOT SUBJECT TO CENSORSHIP UNDER THE INDIAN EMERGENCY DID POSE A POTENTIAL PROBLEM. HE SAID HE WOULD CONSULT HIS SUPERIORS.

9. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT AND USIA ADVICE ON IMMUNITY OF USIS BRANCH LIBRARIES IN CONGENS AGAINST PRESSURE TO REMOVE SPECIFIC PUBLICATIONS. WE HAVE NO DOUBT ABOUT IMMUNITY OF USIS PREMISES IN NW DELHI, WHICH BOTH MEA PROTOCOL AND TEJA APPEAR TO ACKNOWLEDGE ARE COVERED BY DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON LINE TO TAKE SHOULD GOI PRESS THE ISSUE FURTHER.  
SAXBE

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PINS, IN, USIA  
**To:** STATE USIA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006